(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted some proposals for construction of new railway lines in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects approved out of them; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the other proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Karnataka have recently requested for the following new railway lines:

Sl. No.	Proposals sent	Remarks
1.	Hospet-Hubli-Ankola (280 kms.)	1&2. On the basis of the surveys carried out earlier, the projects were found to be financially unremunerative. On repeated requests, updating of the survey reports have been taken up. Further action will depend on results of survey and availability of resources.
2.	Kottur-Harihar railway line (68 kms.)	
3.	Bangalore circular railway.	3. This concerns local authorities, State Government and Ministry of Urban Development. Railway are prepared to render technical assistance if funds are made available by the State Govt. and Ministry of Urban Development for these projects.

Payment of Bills by State Electricity Boards

4578. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Electricity Boards have withheld payment of their bills to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the pending bills, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce a policy of advance payment by the State Elecricity Boards in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (c) No, Sir. There is no payments due from State Electricity Boards to the Union Government.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Privatisation of ITDC Business

4579. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India Tourism Development Corporation properties, business activities which have been given to the private parties/firms, fully or partly; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No property of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (ITDC) has been goven to private parties/firms. ITDC however, has entered into agreement with private parties for serving speciality food in 5 restaurants of four of its hotels as per details given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	Name of the Restt.	Speciality	Name of the private party
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	China Town	Chinese cuisine	M/s Szechewan kitchen Caterer
2.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi (a)	Wanchi	-do-	M/s Wanchi Caterers
	(b)	—*	Pure Veg. South Indian	M/s Sagar Food Home
3.	Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	Coconut Grove	Non-Veg. South Indian	M/s K. S. Kumar & Co.
4.	Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra	Chinese Restt.*	Chinese cuisine	M/s Deling and Co.

*Earlier operated by M/s Woodland. The contract has now been given to M/s Sagar Food Home. The Restaurant has not yet started operation.
**The Restaurant is still to be commissioned.

Broad-Gauge Line from Karur to Salem

4580. DR. K. S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay broad gauge line between Karur and Salem via Velur, Namakkal and Rasipuram;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

[Translation]

Civic facilities in Kishanganj Railway Colony

4581. SHRI KALKA DASS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: